The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

'Freedom of Association' Resolution Adopted at International Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland.—The unanimous adoption of resolutions asserting the right of workers and employers to enjoy freedom of association highlighted the work of the International Labor Conference which met here for its 30th session. A total of 48 unions were represented.

The controversial subject of freedom of association was referred to the ILO by the United Nations following action by the American Federation of Labor which raised the issue of trade union rights throughout the world. It was the first referral of such a task to a specialized agency of the United Nations.

The conference also adopted six conventions, or international labor treaties. Five of these were aimed at the improvement of labor conditions in non-metropolitan areas and represent an economic and social "Bill of Rights" for the peoples in non-selfgoverning areas. The conventions covered broad social policy, the right of association and settlement of labor disputes, the extension of international labor standards, the maximum length of contracts for the employment of native workers, and a system of labor inspection in the colonial areas.

The sixth convention concerns the establishment of an international labor inspection service and represented the completion of work on this subject begun by the ILO in 1923 and since interrupted by wartime conditions.

The committee which studied the subject of freedom of association was headed by David A. Morse, Assistant Secretary of Labor and head of the U. S. delegation. The report and recommendations of the committee received unanimous approval by the conference.

One resolution asserted the right of workers and employers to join organizations of their own choosing without previous governmental authorization and listed the guarantees required to be given for the free exercise of this right. It sets forth the responsibility of workers and employers to bargain collectively, bans the "yellow dog" contract, prohibits discrimination because of union activity, and condemns company domination of unions. One clause states that a freely concluded collective bargaining agreement making union membership a condition of employment would not be inconsistent with the resolution.

The second resolution calls for a study of the desirability of creating international machinery for safeguarding the right to freedom of association. The ILO's governing body was designated to report on the matter at the next conference after consulting with the United Nations.

Action by the conference in adopting the recommended program paved the way for formulation of an international treaty for consideration by the 1948 session of the International Labor Conference.

Hailing the action of the conference, Mr. Morse said:

"The agreement reached here on this question is probably the most significant development that has occurred in the history of this organization and it certainly is the most significant development in this field in the world.

"Twenty years ago this whole problem was before the ILO, and the conference split. Now, twenty years later, in less than three weeks, with the governments of the world, except the Soviets, represented, we have been able to come to a unanimous agreement on this great problem."

AFL-CIO Elections Close; 87% of Eligibles Vote in June

Washington, D. C.—Seventy-four percent of the ballots cast during June in elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board were in favor of collective bargaining by some labor organization.

The NLRB report showed a nip and tuck race between the AFL and CIO in the number of elections won. The AFL was victorious in 147 elections, or 52 percent of those in which it participated, while the CIO won out on 107 occasions with a percentage score of 55 percent.

Contests pitting the AFL and CIO directly against each other resulted in 24 AFL victories as against 32 wins chalked up by the CIO.

The 864 cases filed with NLRB in June represented a decrease of 38 percent from the number filed in June a year ago. The backlog of cases still to be completed is, however, 10 percent greater than the figure for June, 1946. At the end of last month, 5,073 cases were awaiting action at various procedural levels.

A total of 431 elections were conducted during the month with 54,063 ballots cast. This number represented 87 percent of those eligible to vote.

Metal Trades Department of AFL Urges Strong U. S. Merchant Marine

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's Metal Trades Department appealed to Congress, the administration, and the American people to maintain a first rate United States merchant marine.

In an exhaustive report on the subject, the department cited the fact that after World War I, American shipyards were allowed to lapse into idleness. American shipping almost disappeared from the seas and hardly skeleton forces of shipyard workers remained.

"We must not throw away once again the opportunity to maintain and develop an American merchant marine," the department declared.

This nation turned out a record number of cargo ships during World War II and union members gave their "fullest service to the building of ships so necessary to victory," the report pointed out.

However, most of those vessels were slow-moving Liberty ships and tankers, and a large number of these have been disposed of to foreign lands.

The great need now, the department said, is for speedy, efficient, modern ships, both for coastwise and overseas trade, so as to meet foreign competition and the requirements of American shippers.

Such a fleet should also be built up in the interests of national defense, as auxiliaries to the army and navy, the department urged.

"There ought to be at all times," it said, "sufficient employes engaged in the private shipyards and navy yards to be able to meet immediately any national emergency, and because of experience to be able to train a rapidly expanding force of workers which might be required during war.

"Just as we cannot permit our army, navy or air force to diminish to a point where they cannot defend the nation, so we cannot afford to let our shipyards decline into insignificance.

"Our navy, army and air force, in the last analysis, are not any stronger than the supply ships that keep them going in wartime."

8% OF FACTORY WORKERS PAID BELOW 65-CENT RATE

Washington, D. C.—More than one million, or 8 percent, of the 12 million workers employed in manufacturing industries in October, 1946, earned less than 65 cents an hour, according to a report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over half of these were in the lumber, furniture, tobacco, and apparel industries, which are important in the economy of the South.

Workers earning less than 75 cents an hour numbered 2,100,000, including from 30 to 50 percent of the wage earners in the lumber, furniture, tobacco, apparel, leather, and textile industry groups.

Nearly three-fifths of the workers in manufacturing industries earned $1 or more an hour, and 15 percent were employed at rates amounting to $1.50 or more.

The numbers of workers at the lower rates have been reduced substantially as a result of important "second round" wage increases that have been granted since the time the estimates were prepared.

FHA MORTGAGE ACTIVITY NOW AT RECORD VOLUME

Washington, D. C.—The Federal Housing Administration in the first half of 1947 received a record volume of applications for mortgage insurance, with all dwelling units involved totaling about 276,000, Commissioner Raymond M. Foley announced.

Approximately 200,000 new units were covered by the total, Mr. Foley said, with more than a third in multiple family rental housing projects. There were 1,671 rental housing project applications, comprising 68,702 units.

In addition to applications on mortgages covering new construction, FHA received applications involving approximately 76,000 units in existing one to four-family dwellings.

JAMES F. McCAFFERY DIES

Cleveland, Ohio.—James F. McCaffery, widely known in union circles, died here at the age of 50. Mr. McCaffery was past secretary of the Theatrical Employes' Union and past president of the Motion Picture Studio Mechanics. At the time of his death he was a member of the Stagehands Union.

Long Daily and Weekly Hours Destroy Efficiency, Up Costs

Washington, D. C.—The 8-hour day and 5-day week yield better results in terms of efficiency, absenteeism and work injuries than do longer daily and weekly hours.

This is the conclusion reached by a Labor Department report on case studies of how human beings react to changes in work schedules.

The survey, on which the report was based, covered 34 plants with various daily and weekly patterns of hours in a considerable variety of manufacturing activities. The effects of every pattern of hours were observed for at least 6 months and frequently for a year or more.

In most instances, and up to a certain point, longer hours yielded increases in total output, but these did not measure up to the increases in hours.

As a rule workers under wage incentives and at routine and repetitive jobs in which they were in complete control of the speed of operations were able to obtain only two hours of output for every three hours of work when hours exceeded 48 a week.

Up to the 48-hour level efficiencies were fairly well maintained, although the weekly output suffered from greater absenteeism and a higher incidence of work injuries. In terms of labor cost, hours in excess of 48 a week meant four and one-half hours' pay for two hours' output.

The study was begun in the war and extended through the postwar period.

The data obtained apply almost entirely to workers paid under some form of incentive system, such as piecework, a bonus system, or prescribed output levels for specified wage rates.

The survey did not permit a determination of the comparative effects of fewer than 40 weekly hours.

However, the findings are so interesting and significant that individual employers may be impelled to conduct studies to determine the work schedule that yields optimum efficiency for their own types of operations.

Absenteeism, it was found, generally increased as hours increased, and particularly when a sixth or seventh work day was added. The higher absenteeism was caused in part by a higher incidence of work injuries and in part from the need for more rest or the need to attend to personal matters.

Longer hours usually resulted in a higher frequency of work injuries. Sometimes a strong safety organization was able to hold down the increase to match the lengthening of hours, but at times the injuries increased at great disproportions, regardless of managements' efforts.

An analysis of daily output data indicates that the effects of fatigue on workers were not reserved for overtime hours. During the 5-day, 40-hour week daily efficiency tended to work up to a peak on Wednesday or Thursday, with only a slight drop on Friday.

When daily hours were extended to 9 or 10, but still retaining the 5-day week, the midweek spurt disappeared and one day was about as good as another. When a sixth day was added, usually of eight hours, the daily output pattern dropped to a still lower level.

Miners' Welfare Fund Trustees Pick Sayers As Medical Board Chairman

Washington, D. C.—The AFL's United Mine Workers announced the appointment of Dr. R. R. Sayers as chairman of the medical board established by the trustees of the UMWA Welfare and Retirement Fund to serve the bituminous coal industry.

In his new position, Dr. Sayers will advise trustees of the Welfare and Retirement Fund on health and medical problems. He will also assist state and local public health authorities, as well as coal operators and unions, in carrying out recommendations contained in the Medical Survey of the Bituminous Coal Industry issued last spring by Rear Admiral Joel T. Boone. This survey, provided for by the Krug-Lewis agreement when the Government was operating the mines, is the first nation-wide report on living and working conditions of miners. Its recommendations include:

Establishment of strong local health departments; improvement of basic sanitation; organization of health education programs, including health demonstration projects by medical societies or philanthropic foundations; industry-wide studies and research on nature, occurrence, and control of occupational diseases and disabilities; rehabilitation programs; expansion of company industrial medicine programs, including physical examinations of employes, and provisions of adequate first aid and other medical facilities; improvement of size and quality of hospitals and out-patient clinics; modification and consolidation of prepayment plans for medical care; and improvement of housing and of recreational facilities.

Dr. Sayers is one of the most outstanding medical and safety authorities in the United States on living standards and working conditions, as well as local hospitalization and medical services in American coal fields. His resignation as director of the U. S. Bureau of Mines was recently announced. He has been granted a leave of absence from the U. S. Public Health Service in order to accept his new position.

Wage Law Violated By 9% of Employers

Washington, D. C.—Nine percent of the 30,000 plants inspected by the Department of Labor between July 1, 1946 and March 31, 1947, failed to pay the 40-cent hourly minimum wage required by law.

William R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, said:

"Although inspections were made only on a selective basis, and on complaints, the fact that violations of the modest 40-cents-an-hour minimum wage under the Wage and Hour Law still were found is shocking. Industry as a whole must be amazed to learn that some employers still are paying less than $16 for a 40-hour workweek."

It is indeed "shocking" to learn that 2,900 employers still resort to chiseling and "sweat shop" methods by refusing to pay a wage minimum which is generally recognized as being too low to provide a minimum standard of decency.

The AFL has fought for an increase in the minimum wage to at least 65 cents an hour and has been joined by numerous organizations in its support of such legislation before Congress. That the 80th Congress failed to act on this matter during the session just closed is further proof of its anti-labor attitude and its favoritism for special interests.

McComb's report showed other wholesale violations of the overtime and child labor provisions of the law. More than $6,800,000 in back wages were recovered for workers as a result of prosecution by the Labor Department of violators that were apprehended.

NEW RAILWAY MAIL OFFICERS

Buffalo, N. Y.—George Cutler of New York City is the new president of the AFL Railway Mail Association's Second Division. Mr. Cutler was elected at the 36th biennial convention, along with Timothy J. Tierney of Long Island City as vice-president.

Japanese Unions Gain In Strength

Washington, D. C.—Nearly half of Japan's wage earners now belong to free trade unions, according to a report released by the Department of Labor.

A report prepared by Theodore Cohen, former chief of the American Military Government's labor division at Tokio, disclosed that 5,000,000 Japanese are now union members, most of them for the first time.

Before the war, Nippon had only a weak union movement, and even that was suppressed in 1940 when the government established a totalitarian state with a Fascist "labor front."

All that was changed when General MacArthur and his occupying force landed on the island, Cohen pointed out. One of MacArthur's earliest directives, back in October, 1945, was to abrogate all repressive laws, dissolve the labor front and institute legislation "legalizing unions and encouraging collective bargaining."

"Workers responded in an unprecedented manner," Cohen declared. Within 18 months union membership shot up to a point more than 10 times greater than pre-war.

This was particularly true on the railroads, he said. Nearly all "Iron Horse" employes organized, and today the Railway Workers' Federation has nearly 600,000 members, working under signed agreements with the managements.

Workers were given "wide latitude" to strike, except where the United States military occupation would be directly affected. Many bitter labor disputes arose, but "man-days lost through strikes have amounted to only one-tenth of 1 percent of time worked," he said.

ILLEGAL CHILD LABOR

Washington, D. C.—The number of minors under 18 employed in violation of the child-labor provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act in establishments inspected increased 15 percent during the last 6 months of 1946, compared with the last 6 months of 1945, according to the U. S. Department of Labor.

This increase in violations occurred in spite of a 57-percent reduction in total number of minors employed in inspected establishments during the same periods.

Session Record Of Congress Dismal For Wage Earners

Special Interest Groups Forced Measures Against Labor

Washington, D. C.—The 80th Congress, the first under Republican control since the advent of the New Deal, closed its first session. The record shows it to have been a most reactionary Congress.

Progressive social reforms were eliminated, modified or quietly ignored at this session which has seen the special interest groups riding roughshod over the interests of the American wage earner.

The 80th Congress forced a new concept of labor-management relations upon the nation when it adopted the notorious Taft-Hartley measure which had the whole-hearted support of the National Association of Manufacturers. Over the repeated warnings of labor spokesmen, enlightened industrialists and other public figures, the cause of labor was hamstrung and the government placed right in the middle of labor-management relations. This was precisely what the labor and business leaders who realized that legislation cannot settle labor disputes, recommended against.

The 80th Congress tried to reduce taxes, not for the relief of those most in need but for those already in the high income brackets. Not content with one veto sustained by the House, the determined GOP leadership tried again on a post-dated basis in an effort to make good on a campaign pledge to cut the tax receipts of the Federal Government. The President immediately sent through a second veto message which was sustained in the Senate.

The 80th Congress will be remembered more for what this first session did not accomplish than for any legislative progress which it made.

No action was taken on proposals to increase minimum wage levels despite the crying need for an upward adjustment to compensate for the increases in the cost of living.

Social Security benefits were not increased, nor was the coverage of the law broadened. Instead, the Congress froze the present payroll tax rate at its present level until 1950 making it virtually impossible to liberalize payments.

Despite the existence of a severe housing crisis, the long-range program embodied in the Taft-Ellender Bill was shelved without action. The only measure touching upon the housing problem was the new rent control law which permits landlords to increase rents under "voluntary" agreement with tenants.

Various health measures never reached the floor of either house. With the recognized need for a health insurance program to furnish complete medical care to workers and their families, action by the Senate committee considering this legislation was slowed by the introduction of the Taft Bill designed to provide medical care on a charity basis to those families who successfully passed a means test.

President Truman requested legislation to further social progress in his message to Congress last January and reiterated the need therefor in his recent message transmitting his mid-year economic report.

The first session of the 80th Congress failed to heed his requests.

Political Wrangle In Senate Defers Vote On NLRB Jobs

Washington, D. C.—A political wrangle engaged in by the Senate during the final hours of its closing session prevented a final vote on President Truman's nominations to fill new NLRB jobs created by the Taft-Hartley law.

Mr. Truman appointed former Senator Abe Murdock of Utah and J. Copeland Gray of Buffalo to new positions on the National Labor Relations Board. He chose Robert N. Denham, NLRB trial examiner, to serve as general counsel of the board.

Thus the Senate, which had the last word to say on the new anti-labor measure, failed to confirm the men designated to play an important part in the administration of the new law. This will serve only to cloud the already complicated situation and will delay the reorganization on a permanent basis of the NLRB.

The way was paved for Senate action when the Senate Labor Committee approved the President's appointments. It voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Denham for the new position of general counsel. The vote was 9 to 3 in favor of Murdock and Gray.

State Workmen's Compensation Laws Strengthened by Legislative Action

Washington, D. C.—Twenty-five states enacted legislation in 1947 improving and strengthening existing workmen's compensation laws, according to an article in "Labor Information," a monthly bulletin prepared by the Labor Department.

Five states passed new occupational disease laws. Second injury funds were established in South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia. The Nevada law was completely reenacted and made compulsory instead of elective. In 15 states the amount of compensation benefits was increased.

Reenactment of the Nevada law covering all employers with 4 or more employes brought to 21 the number of states having compulsory laws. Coverage was also extended by modifications to the Washington, Wyoming and Idaho laws.

Occupational disease laws were enacted for the first time in Iowa, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas. This makes a total of 38 states which now protect workmen against the hazards of occupational diseases. All of these new laws are of the schedule type and list certain diseases which are compensable. All of them cover silicosis. The new Tennessee law, however, has a special provision which permits an employer to reject the schedule and elect to be bound for full coverage of all occupational diseases. The New York law was amended so as to eliminate special limitations with regard to silicosis benefits.

Second injury funds were established in South Dakota, Vermont, and West Virginia. As a result of this action, there are now 35 states which have second injury funds or equivalent arrangements. Under the previous law in West Virginia there was an "equivalent arrangement" under which payment for second injuries was paid out of the regular accident fund. The amendment sets up a special second injury reserve in the surplus fund.

A number of states provided for increased benefits. In Colorado benefits were increased in cases of disability and death and the total maximum allowed in disability cases was also raised. A Delaware amendment provides for payment of compensation during the entire period of total disability instead of being limited to 500 weeks. In Indiana an injured employe may receive compensation for schedule injuries in addition to compensation for temporary total disability.

In Kansas the aggregate maximum death benefits were raised and the weekly benefits in disability cases were increased. An amendment in Maryland increased the maximum weekly benefits in cases of total disability and the aggregate maximum in permanent partial disability cases. This amendment also provides that compensation in death cases shall be paid for 500 weeks. In Montana, Nevada, and New Mexico, benefits for all types of disability and death were increased. The benefits were also raised in North Carolina and in that state compensation is now payable for life in cases of total disability due to paralysis resulting from injuries to the spinal cord.

Disability and medical benefits were increased in many states in addition to changes in death benefits.

All of the states except Oregon provide for a specified waiting period immediately following the injury during which compensation is not paid. This "waiting time" ranges from a minimum of 1 day to a maximum of 10 days, with the majority of the states requiring a 7-day waiting period. Two states passed legislation on this subject. In Nevada the waiting period was reduced from 7 days to 5 days. An amendment in Vermont continued the waiting period of 7 days, but provided that compensation is to be paid for the whole period of disability if the disability lasts for 21 days after the seventh day.

N. Y. PAINTERS TO RATIFY 30-CENT PAY INCREASE

New York City.—Ten thousand Manhattan and Bronx painters received pay increases of 30 cents an hour.

The agreement between District Council 9 and the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, AFL, and the Association of Master Painters, also provided for establishment of a joint labor-management "fair practice" committee to consider disputes over discrimination in layoffs.

The union had originally sought a 75-cent pay rise and a cut in working hours from seven a day to six. Under the agreement, which union leaders predicted would be ratified by all of the ten locals involved, the wage rate will be $2.30 an hour and the work day will remain at seven hours.

Representatives of both sides said they expected a "boom" in painting this fall as a result of tenant demands for redecoration when agreeing to 15 percent rent increases.

WIFE OF ITU PRESIDENT DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Indianapolis, Ind.—Mrs. Agnes M. Randolph, wife of Woodruff Randolph, President of the International Typographical Union (AFL), died on July 24th at her home here after an illness of 18 months.

She was well known personally to thousands of union printers throughout the United States and Canada, having attended all ITU conventions with President Randolph.

She was born in Chicago and lived there until coming to Indianapolis 20 years ago when Mr. Randolph was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the International Typographical Union.

APPRENTICE TRAINING UP IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Detroit.—Building trades unions and contractors are expanding apprenticeship programs in the construction industry, according to William F. Patterson, Director, Apprentice-Training Service, U. S. Department of Labor.

At the end of May there were 51,513 contractors participating in registered apprenticeship programs in the building trades throughout the country. Patterson said:

"Apprenticeship in the construction industry has expanded regularly, even during the winter months when there is a seasonal drop off in new building. Contractors and unions, who jointly set up and administer apprenticeship programs in the building trades, are wisely preparing for the time when construction will reach its peak and more apprentices must be hired and trained."

UNION REGISTRATION UNIT ORGANIZED IN LABOR DEPT.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach established the Office for the Registration of Labor Organizations within the Labor Department to handle the filing of financial and organizational reports by labor unions as required under the Taft-Hartley law.

The Labor Department is preparing a registration form for use by unions seeking to register under the law.

BUILDING ACTIVITY UP

Washington, D. C.—The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a 10 percent increase in construction activity pushed building expenditures to $1,229,000,000 in June and gave jobs to 1,760,000 workers. The BLS indicates that this is a 19 percent increase in financial outlay and a boost of a quarter-million in the number of workers over June, 1946.

AFL PAINTERS OBTAIN HOURLY WAGE INCREASE

Providence, R. I.—Six hundred painters of the AFL voted to accept a 20-cents-an-hour wage increase.

The painters, who had been receiving $1.37½ an hour, sought an increase of 31¼ cents through their union, Local 195, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, which has jurisdiction over painters in Providence, Warwick, Bristol and Westerly. The counter-offer of the employers was 18¾ cents an hour. The painters now will receive $1.57½ an hour.

State Limits Checkoff To Voluntary Cases

Lansing, Mich.—The Michigan Attorney General's office issued a ruling that the checkoff of union dues and initiation fees was illegal unless authorization is given to the company by the individual worker.

The ruling was based on a 1941 state law and reverses the position taken by the State Department of Labor and Industry.

"There is nothing in the Michigan statutes requiring the authorization to be in writing," the opinion stated, but it was added that written authorization would be advisable.

Peter A. Brady, Deputy Attorney General, said that employers would be guilty of a misdemeanor if they deducted union dues "without the full and free consent" of a worker. Membership in a union which has contracted for the checkoff was not sufficient authorization, he declared.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Last Rites Held for Robert J. Watt; Mass. State Federation Pays Tribute

Washington, D. C.—Robert J. Watt, international representative of the American Federation of Labor, was buried in Arlington National Cemetery after funeral services at the Fort Myer Chapel attended by highest officials of organized labor and government.

Mr. Watt, the American workers' delegate at the recent conference of the International Labor Organization at Geneva, Switzerland, died aboard the liner Saturnia in mid-Atlantic last Thursday. He was a veteran of World War I. During the last war he served on the National War Labor Board. He was one of the best known and most highly respected labor leaders in the United States.

The Rev. John F. Cronin, assistant director, Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, was the celebrant of the Requiem Mass. The Rev. George G. Higgins, also an assistant director of the N. C. W. C.'s Social Action Department, was present in the sanctuary. The Rev. Raymond A. McGowan, director of the Social Action Department, delivered a brief eulogy in which he paid tribute to the character of Mr. Watt, his spirit of consecration to the cause of betterment of the lot of the working people, his service to labor and the nation and his contributions particularly to the International Labor Organization.

At the grave the prayers were led by Father Higgins.

The honorary pallbearers were: William Green, president, American Federation of Labor; George Meany, AFL secretary-treasurer; Frank P. Fenton, director of organization, AFL; Vincent P. Ahearn, industry member of the former National War Labor Board; Clarence G. MacDavitt, former employer delegate to the International Labor Conference; Jeff Rens, assistant director, International Labor Organization; James T. Moriarty, former Massachusetts Commissioner of Labor; Dr. Irving Brotman; Bernard Wiesman of the State Department; William C. Doherty, president, National Association of Letter Carriers; James A. Brownlow, secretary-treasurer, AFL Metal Trades Department; and Walter Mason, national legislative representative for the AFL.

Those present at the last rites for one of labor's best-loved sons included former Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins; Philip Hannah, Assistant Secretary of Labor; Cyrus Ching, industrial relations director for the United States Rubber Company; Cleon Swayzee of the State Department; and Chu Hsueh-fan, Chinese labor leader and member of the ILO Governing Body.

A special delegation sent from the convention of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, of which Mr. Watt had been secretary-treasurer and legislative agent, comprised the following: John J. Murphy, AFL regional director of organization; A. Suprerant, president, Massachusetts State Building Trades Council; S. Jassen, vice-president of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor; Philip Kramer, vice-president, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and E. A. Johnson, secretary, Boston Building Trades Council.

Other mourners included John O'Leary and A. D. Lewis, representing the United Mine Workers; Martin P. Durkin, president, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry; George Q. Lynch, president, Pattern Makers League of North America; D. W. Tracy, president, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; John P. Frey, president, Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L.; Harvey Brown, president, International Association of Machinists; Eric J. Peterson, secretary-treasurer, Machinists; Leslie L. Myers, representative, International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers; Bryce Holcombe, representative, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers; John P. Redmond and George J. Richardson, president and secretary, respectively, International Association of Fire Fighters; Frank Fitzgerald, secretary-treasurer, International Union of Operating Engineers; Lewis Hines, legislative representative, A. F. of L.; Boris Shishkin, economist, A. F. of L.; Nelson Cruikshank, director, A. F. of L. social insurance activities; Miss Florence Thorne, AFL Research Director; John Brophy, director of the CIO's industrial union councils; Tom Owens, CIO national legislative representative; and Russell Taylor, legislative representative for the CIO's United Shoe Workers Union.

Joseph Keenan, secretary, Chicago Federation of Labor; James B. Burns and Mrs. Berniece Heffner, president and secretary, respectively, American Federation of Government Employes; Paul R. Hutchings and J. Howard Hicks, president and secretary, respectively, Office Employes International Union; H. A. Bradley, president, International Chemical Workers Union; James Myles, international representative, Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers International Association; Miguel Garriga, representative, Hotel and Restaurant Employes; and Michael Garrett, former international representative, United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters.

Many others were also in attendance. Extraordinary tributes made by those unable to attend have been received from every part of the world.

Springfield, Mass.—The Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, at its convention here, paid special tribute to Robert J. Watt, former secretary-treasurer.

Out of respect to Mr. Watt, the convention did not meet until 11 a.m. the morning of his funeral and the officials of the State Federation and 400 delegates marched in a body to St. Michael's Cathedral where a solemn high mass was held in his memory. The mass was celebrated by the Rev. John J. Powers, Rev. John F. Mitchell and Rev. Robert E. Sullivan.

State Federation President John J. Del Monte addressed the convention and delivered a eulogy praising Mr. Watt for his devoted service to the cause of labor and democracy. Commenting upon the memorial service he said:

"I am sure that no memorial or statue of bronze could ever replace the real spirit in which this convention tendered honor to our great and beloved brother, Robert J. Watt."

President Del Monte also read to the convention a telegram from the Acting Governor of Massachusetts, Arthur W. Coolidge. The message was as follow. .

"At this hour when funeral services for the late Robert J. Watt are taking place in Washington, I wish, in behalf of the Commonwealth, to convey to the delegates assembled at the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor convention a tribute to a great labor statesman and an outstanding citizen of our state. I mourn with you the loss of an associate whose life was consecrated to the cause of workers everywhere. I share with you the solemn pride for all that this distinguished son of Massachusetts has done for his fellow men."

Article Tells of 'Red-Licking' Formula Used Successfully by Garment Unions

The special tactics and organizational set up by which the big needle trade unions defeated communist attempts to capture control are described in an article which will appear in the Saturday Evening Post of August 9.

The article, entitled "How the Garment Unions Licked the Comunists", is by J. C. Rich, editor of The Hat Worker, official publication of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, AFL.

The article points out that although there are "more communists to the square foot of working space" in the lofts where the nation's clothing is sewn, than in all other industrial plants and centers, the apparel trade unions have contained and stymied the party liners more effectively than such organizations as the electrical or automobile workers' unions.

The garment workers licked the communists not by superior cunning or novel subterfuge, Mr. Rich states, but in tactics which are available to all other unions. The prime objective must be to organize the majority of the membership in the labor organizations, he says, so as to defeat the communist strategy of infiltration and domination by a minority of party liners, fellow travelers and fellow wanderers.

The article lists in detail the measures by which the majority in the apparel trades unions was mobilized to combat the communists. It tells of the committees which exist in the unions for the special purpose of rallying the membership on critical issues. Communist attempts to divide the members on racial and religious issues are also cited as are the measures taken to counter these attacks.

The campaign strategy by which the communists were defeated in this year's elections for office in the International Ladies Garment Workers Union where the communists are most strongly concentrated, is stressed. As a result of this strategy, more than 126,000 members participated in the balloting, and of these less than 15,000 voted the communist ticket. In New York where the communists are most strongly entrenched, not a single candidate sponsored or endorsed by the communists was elected to office.

The article concludes with a statement from David Dubinsky, president of the ladies garment union, to the effect that what his organization has done any organization could do.

"Americans who cherish their liberties," he says, "and have been dismayed by the communists' skill in infiltration, confusion and division, need not despair. What our members have done, others can do. Communism can win only by the default of a soft and lazy democracy."

Truman Appoints Men to NLRB Posts

Washington, D. C.—President Truman made interim appointments to the National Labor Relations Board for the three candidates on whom the Senate failed to act.

Former Senator Abe Murdock and J. Copeland Gray were appointed to serve on the NLRB and Robert N. Denham was named as general counsel. In its mad dash for adjournment, the Senate became involved in political wrangling over presidential appointments and failed to act upon the NLRB nominees. Under the recess appointments the men can hold their jobs until the end of the next session of Congress.

Denham's job is one of immense responsibilities. He will administer the NLRB field activities and determine what complaints are to be heard, investigated and processed. Denham is a former NLRB trial examiner.

Murdock was Democratic Senator from, Utah until the late election. Gray is a labor relations consultant from Buffalo, N. Y. They will join with Chairman Paul M. Herzog, John M. Houston and James J. Reynolds, Jr., to constitute the expanded five-man board prescribed by the Taft-Hartley Act.

Meantime, there was a question of how much work they would have to do inasmuch as both the CIO and AFL have instructed member unions to steer clear of the law, the board and all its processes.

The number of petitions filed with the NLRB in July is expected to run to only about 200, compared with a usual monthly figure of about 1,000.

TRUMAN SIGNS BILL TO SPEED HOUSING

Washington, D. C.—President Truman signed a far-reaching measure clearing the way for completion of 100 low-rent and anti-slum housing projects in 75 cities.

Under the National Housing Act, the Government is forbidden to contribute to any project which would cost more than $4,000 per family unit in small cities or more than $5,000 in cities of more than 500,000.

The new bill would permit the Government to finish already started projects, if the municipal government agrees to pay the difference between the construction cost and the legal NHA limit.

Keenan Gets Medal For Berlin Service

Berlin, Germany.—The U. S. Office of Military Government for Germany announced the award of the Medal of Freedom to Joseph D. Keenan, secretary of the AFL's Chicago Federation of Labor.

Keenan is on duty in Berlin serving as labor advisor to the military governor in the U. S. German occupation zone.

The citation accompanying the medal, which was presented to Keenan by Major General F. A. Keating, Deputy Military Governor, was as follows:

"Mr. Joseph D. Keenan, U. S. Civilian, Labor Advisor to the Deputy Military Governor, Office of the Chief of Staff. As Associate Director of the Manpower Division (OMGUS), from 10 May to 23 July, 1945, Mr. Keenan was in charge of organizing and developing the German manpower agencies, and displayed great initiative, ability and leadership in reorganizing democratic trade unions. His contributions served to stimulate a rebirth of democratic organizations and processes in Germany, and will serve as one of the foundations of a democratic Germany, reflecting the highest credit upon him and the Military Government for Germany (United States)."

Mr. Keenan is currently in the U. S. on leave of absence from his Berlin post.

Harrison, Wright On Railway Panel

Chicago.—Hearings on the demands of 17 "non-operating" railroad unions for a 20-cent-an-hour wage increase commenced before the 6-man arbitration board appointed to settle the dispute.

George M. Harrison, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, and George Wright, vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, represent unions on the board.

The agreement to arbitrate was entered into after a week of negotiations between the unions and carriers. The board is composed of two representatives each from the unions and carriers and two "neutral" members.

The "neutral" positions on the board are filled by Dr. William M. Leiserson, former chairman of the National Mediation Board, and Dr. Robert D. Calkins, vice-president of the General Education Board and endowed foundation which seeks to promote educational facilities. Both men have had considerable experience in the field of railway labor matters.

Consumers Are Still Rooked; Meat Prices At Record High

Washington, D. C.—Meat prices were at record levels in July, according to a report released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

This comes as no news to housewives all over the country who have been stretching the family dollar to the breaking point. They witnessed the immediate upsurge of prices last summer during the price control holiday. They were reassured by business spokesmen that it was only temporary and that prices would come down.

Prices did come down with the re-imposition of controls, but when that happened the meat interests went on strike and meat suddenly became scarce. Pressure brought to alleviate the shortage resulted in the removal for good of all price control, which marked the beginning of a steady upward spiral in meat prices. Now the Bureau of Agriculture reports that prices stand at levels 20 percent higher than a year ago.

As for the future, the report predicts that only a "moderate seasonal decline is expected in meat prices this fall, unless there is a drop in consumer incomes and spending."

Prospects for a smaller corn crop will not cause a decrease in meat supplies this year, "but would lower the output next year," the bureau said.

The bureau sharply disagreed with a report of a House Agriculture subcommittee which charged that meat exports last year had caused present high prices.

The department said last year's export of 445 million pounds of meat mentioned in the report of Representative August Andresen (R., Minn.) "represents a little more than one week's meat consumption in this country."

During the months mentioned by Andresen, it said, meat production was 21 billion pounds.

Mine Safety Improvement Possible Without Sacrifice In Production

Washington, D. C.—Increased safety in the nation's coal mines can be achieved without hindering maximum production, according to a report issued by Capt. N. H. Collisson on operation of the mines under the Federal Mine Safety Code.

Capt. Collisson, who administered the soft coal mines for their period of government operation, submitted his report to J. A. Krug, Secretary of the Interior.

He said the record of government operation of the mines "refutes without question" any theory that maximum safety can only be attained at the expense of production.

Capt. Collisson said that with government withdrawal from the mines the operators now have full opportunity to proceed voluntarily to maintain maximum safety.

The terms of the Federal code, with few exceptions, have been incorporated in the agreement between the operators and the United Mine Workers. The code, said Capt. Collisson, "is not in its present form a perfect document. It will require careful revision and review based upon study, experimentation and the results of practical application. Coal mining in this country is an inherently dangerous occupation . . .

"It would seem indefensible to permit the accomplishments thus achieved to remain static and the industry, the workers and the public to lapse into a state of complacency."

The record of 620,751,000 tons of coal produced in the 1945-46 fiscal year was second only to the coal produced in the 1943-44 fiscal year, when the figure was 630,485,000 tons. The safety code was operative in 11 months of 1945-46.

Soft coal fatalities in 1945-46 from all causes totaled 800. This was a rate of 1.194 per million man-hours of working time. In 1940-41, the total fatalities were 1,072 and the rate was 1.55 per million man-hours.

The report pointed out that fatalities resulting from falls of roof and rib and the fatalities resulting from haulage accidents greatly exceeded those resulting from gas and dust explosions.

"This is important," said the report, "for the reason that public interest is inclined to concentrate on the dangers existing with respect to explosions and minimize the very real dangers which are always present in the mine resulting from falls of roof and rib, as well as the manifold accidents resulting from the haulage operations."

Seafarers Union Gets New Contract

New York City.—The AFL's Seafarers International Union and employing operators of the Atlantic and Gulf Ship Operators Association agreed on a new wage and working contract.

J. P. Shuler, union secretary-treasurer, said the settlement directly affects 20,000 seamen working for nine Atlantic and Gulf Coast operators, but will indirectly benefit 50,000 other AFL seamen on all coasts. It gives the seamen the 5 percent wage rise won last month by CIO seamen, provides nine paid holidays at sea, a 7-day vacation after a year of continuous service and 14 days for the second and subsequent years.

The companies represented by the association were the Bull Line, Baltimore Insular Line, Alcoa Steamship Company, American Liberty Steamship Company, Eastern Lines, Seas Shipping Company, Seatrain Lines, Smith and Johnson and the South Atlantic Steamship Lines.

NLRB FIELD DIRECTOR RESIGNS IN PROTEST

Cincinnati, Ohio.—Martin J. Wagner resigned as regional director of the National Labor Relations Board, declaring that he believed the Taft-Hartley Act "unworkable."

NLRB chief here since 1943, Mr. Wagner made public his letter of resignation. He said:

"The act, in my opinion, contains provisions which are not conducive to sound collective bargaining or the promotion of industrial peace. * * * I do not believe it is sound policy to correct abuses by withdrawing protections which history has demonstrated are essential for the development of sound collective bargaining."

CHICAGO TEAMSTERS RATIFY NEW CONTRACT

Chicago.—Ten locals of the AFL's teamsters union ratified a contract with 210 Chicago area fuel oil and gasoline firms employing 1,400 transport drivers.

H. F. Wood, secretary-treasurer of Local 705, said the drivers had received a guaranteed 40-hour work week with no cut in pay. Present work week for the drivers, he said, is 48 hours. The contract, retroactive to July 1, when the old contract expired, will run for two years.

Mine Bosses Union Ceases Operations

Pittsburgh.—The Mine Bosses Union, an affiliate of the United Mine Workers of America, officially dissolved after seven years of fighting for recognition.

John A. McAlpine, president of the AFL-United Clerical, Technical & Supervisory Employes of the Mining Industry, said all locals of the union have been told to disband.

The union has 30,000 members.

"We are disbanding because of the Taft-Hartley Act and the legislators we have representing the people who were a party to it," Mr. McAlpine declared.

Supervisory workers, such as foremen, are not considered "employes" under the new labor law and have none of the rights and duties covered by it. This, in effect, means they can join unions if they wish, but an employer is not compelled to bargain with them.

Starting in 1940 as the Mine Officials Union of America in the Allegheny, Pa., valley, the union affiliated with the UMW's District 50, a short time after it won its first test by obtaining National Labor Relations Board certification at three mines of the former Union Collieries Co.

FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO DECLINE

Washington, D. C.—The number of Federal civilian employes continued to decrease in most of the 48 states during the first three months of 1947, according to recent estimates made by the U. S. Civil Service Commission. Total Federal employment in the 48 States and the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area dropped from 1,980,700 at the end of December, 1946, to 1,944,400 at the end of March, 1947.

Decreases of between 2,000 and 5,000 workers occurred in five States (California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Washington). For the same period, the Washington, D. C., metropolitan area showed a decrease of over 3,000, from 221,200 to 218,000 workers.

PAY INCREASE AT PILLSBURY

Springfield, Ill.—According to an official of the Springfield plant of Pillsbury Mills, a new two-year wage agreement has been signed granting about 600 AFL employes pay increases averaging 12½ cents an hour.

Taft's Hat In Presidential Ring— It's Empty Even When He Wears It

Candidate's Record In Senate Betrays Callous Disregard for Human Rights

Washington, D. C.—His friends have thrown Senator Robert A. Taft's hat into the ring for the Republican presidential nomination, thus exposing his bald spot to the public spotlight and calling attention to his soft-headed policies.

Despite the build-up some of the reactionary Washington columnists have given the Ohio Senator as a "courageous" and "forthright" politician, he still coyly refrains from announcing his own candidacy. Obviously on the hunt for delegates, he insists his forthcoming speech-making tour of the country will be merely to tell the people about the record of the 80th Congress, which he helped to fashion.

In reviewing that record, Senator Taft may see fit to omit some of the facts in order to make the picture look prettier. Just to keep the record straight, here are a few facts which every American workingman and woman should remember in considering Taft's candidacy:

1. The Ohio Senator was one of the authors and prime movers of the Taft-Hartley Act, which seeks to destroy at one blow all the gains which the members of organized labor have won over the past generation. In discussing this measure publicly before its enactment, Senator Taft admitted that it contained "three-quarters of the matters pressed upon us strenuously by employers."

The question is—Can American workers look with favor upon the prospect of having in the White House a man who takes dictation from employers and puts their interests above the interests of the great mass of American citizens?

2. Senator Taft, by his single objection, prevented Senate action just before adjournment of the first session of the 80th Congress on the Langer-Chavez-Stevenson Bill, previously adopted unanimously by the House of Representatives. This bill sought to increase Federal retirement allowances slightly to compensate for the lowered purchasing power of the dollar. Republican Chairman Langer of the Senate Civil Service Committee was so angered by Taft's action that he urged the two million Federal workers in the country to vote Democratic in the next elections. An overwhelming majority of the members of the Senate favored the bill, but Taft thwarted their wishes.

3. Senator Taft, so anxious to curb labor, displayed only the faintest interest in another bill to which he had previously lent his own name. This was the Wagner-Ellender-Taft Bill, designed to encourage vast expansion of housing construction, a program the nation vitally needs. Taft's sudden lack of interest resulted in sabotaging this measure. Perhaps it is only a coincidence that the powerful real estate lobby fought this bill viciously.

4. Taft also blocked efforts to enact the Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill, providing national insurance against the costs of medical care, a reform badly needed in this country. As a substitute, Taft proposed a measure which would grant people medical assistance only if they confessed themselves paupers. This was typical of his callous attitude toward human rights and progress.

5. Senator Taft was one of the strongest supporters of a new tax bill which would have accorded the wealthy substantial tax reductions and given the masses of the people only a token tax cut. This measure had to be twice vetoed by President Truman for its obvious unfairness before it was killed.

It is almost unbelievable that a public servant with such a record could ever aspire to the office of the President of the United States. Yet Senator Robert A. Taft stands before the American people today, fatuously seeking their support for the highest office in the land.

What are you, the workers and the voters of America, going to do about it?

AFL Seafarers Take Stand Against Taft-Hartley Law

San Francisco.—The AFL's Seafarers Union enunciated its policy with respect to the Taft-Hartley Act as adopted by the union's membership. The five-point program voted upon and published in the union's newspapers is as follows:

1. The Seafarers International Union-Sailors Union of the Pacific go on record as not tolerating in any way, shape, or form, any interference with our union halls by shipowners or Government bureaus.
2. The Seafarers International Union-Sailors Union of the Pacific will consider as a lockout any attempts by any person or persons to use the Taft-Hartley Act to the detriment of our unions.
3. We make known immediately to the AFL, as well as to the AFL Maritime Trades Department, our position on this matter.
4. That we call for a meeting as soon as possible with the Maritime Trades Department on this matter.
5. That we make known our position on the Taft-Hartley Act through the medium of the Seafarers Log and the West Coast Sailor.

Taft-Hartley Slave Law Is Challenged; Teamsters Defy Taft To 'Do Something'

Indianapolis.—The AFL International Teamsters Union deliberately challenged the Taft-Hartley law and defied Sen. Taft (R., Ohio) to "do something" about it.

The union's magazine, the International Teamster, published the names of the Congressmen who voted for the measure over President Truman's veto beneath the headline: "Here are your enemies."

"Senator Taft says we can't tell you this (how to vote). He says this is a violation of the law he wrote," an accompanying editorial said. "Well, that's just too bad. But we are doing it. If Senator Taft wants to do anything about it, let him get started."

"The next move is up to Taft," the editorial said. "Let him file charges . . . and then we can go into court and find out what the constitution means."

The editorial said the union's attorneys advised that the provision of the law which forbids political activity by unions was unconstitutional. The magazine, edited by union President Daniel J. Tobin, said it had been advised by general counsel Joseph A. Padway to print the voting records of Congress "on this and all other matters of interest to labor."

BUILDING MATERIALS CO-OP FORMED BY DANISH WORKERS

Copenhagen, Denmark.—Discrimination by the building-materials cartel against housing co-ops led the Danish workers' co-op council to form a co-op to handle building materials and home furnishings.

In the production of cement, one co-operative is the only independent competition the Danish cartel faces. Lime quarries and brick works are also tied together, many under cement-cartel influence.

The new co-op will act as an importer and wholesale buyer for the whole cooperative movement.

AFL HOTEL EMPLOYEES GAIN WAGE INCREASE

New York City.—The AFL's Hotel Front Service Employees Union, Local 144, representing some 2,000 members, obtained gains in its new contract with the Associated Hotel & Residence Clubs, Inc.

Wage increases granted by the association average about 22 percent. The new wage scales provide four hourly rates ranging from 70 cents to more than $1 an hour. Wage adjustments are retroactive to April 1, 1947.

MACHINISTS TURN DOWN REAFFILIATION WITH AFL

Washington, D. C.—The executive council of the International Association of Machinists notified AFL President William Green by letter that its members voted against immediate reaffiliation with the American Federation of Labor.

The letter extended an offer by IAM officers to meet with AFL representatives at any time to work out an agreement which "will justify our again becoming an active affiliate of the AFL."

AFL DISTILLERY WORKERS RECEIVE WAGE BOOSTS

Louisville, Ky.—Pay increases were granted to 450 distillery employees here and approximately 50 in Frankfort, according to an announcement by John E. McKiernan, international vice president of the AFL Distillery Workers Union.

McKiernan said 50 at the Stitzel-Weller Distillery, Shively, won raises ranging from 15 to 21½c an hour under a new contract. This makes the base minimum rate $1.20 an hour for men and 95c for women.